<u>IN THE CLAIMS:</u>

Please add new claims 8-10 as follows:

1   8. (New) Method for thinning-out a plurality of points representing a road shape,

2   comprising steps of:

3   providing a string of coordinates defining said plurality of points;

4   determining whether the bearing deviation, d_n, of an interpolation point, P_n, of said

5   string of coordinates from a preceding interpolation point, P_{n-1}, of said string of

6   coordinates is smaller than a predetermined angle, α;

7   determining whether a distance, g_n, of the interpolation point, P_n, from the

8   preceding interpolation point, P_{n-1}, is short than a predetermined length, β; and

9   omitting the interpolation point, P_n, from the string of coordinates if both $d_n < \alpha$ and

10    $g_n < \beta$ as determined in the determining steps.

1   9. (New) The method of claim 8, further comprising a step of incrementing the

2   value of n by 1 and then repeating the steps of determining and the step of omitting.

1   10. (New) The method of claim 8 wherein each of the points is represented using

2   relative information based on one of the plurality of points.